

2013 GRAYS HARBOR FISHERY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Conservation objectives - Salmon:

- Manage fisheries to meet or exceed the following conservation objectives:
 - Natural spawning Chinook;
 - Meet or exceed spawner escapement goals.
 - Chehalis River - 12,364.
 - Humptulips River - 2,236.
 - Natural spawning Coho;
 - Meet or exceed spawner escapement goals.
 - Chehalis River - 28,506.
 - Humptulips River - 6,894.
 - Natural spawning Chum;
 - Meet or exceed spawner escapement goal.
 - Grays Harbor – 21,000.
- Manage fisheries to achieve hatchery broodstock collection goals, as identified in the Future Brood Document.
 - Hatchery Chinook;
 - Satsop Springs – an estimated 425 adults to achieve a release goal of 500,000 juveniles
 - Humptulips River – an estimated 425 adults to achieve a release goal of 500,000 juveniles
 - Hatchery Coho;
 - Chehalis River – an estimated 1,540 adults to achieve a release goal of 1,400,000 yearlings
 - Humptulips River – an estimated 550 adults to achieve a release goal of 500,000 of yearlings
 - Hatchery Chum;
 - Bingham, Satsop Springs, and Mayor Brother (Wishkah) facilities – an estimated 500 adults to achieve a release goal of 500,000 juveniles for on-station release.
- Fisheries managers will consider incidental mortality of non-target species encountered in recreational and commercial salmon and sturgeon fisheries.

Conservation Objectives – Sturgeon:

White Sturgeon in Grays Harbor is managed relative to the Columbia River guideline. The guideline for Grays Harbor was established based on level of 'background' harvest occurring in Grays Harbor. That background harvest was calculated to a rounded 4% of the harvest occurring in the Columbia River. Because of this linkage the guideline for Grays Harbor is adjusted in unison to the Columbia River. In 2013 a 9% reduction occurred which resulted from a buffer that was applied to the harvest guideline agreed to through the Columbia River Accord.

	1997-1998	1999-2002	2003-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Columbia River Guideline	67,300	50,000	40,000	24,000	15,640	9,697	8,840
reduction from previous	26%	20%	20%	40%	35%	38%	9%

	1997-1998	1999-2002	2003-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average catch (recent 3 years)
Grays Harbor guideline	2,692	2,000	1,600	960	626	388	354	
Commercial (in RE's)	1,191	885	708	425	277	172	156	23
Recreational	1,346	1,000	800	480	313	194	177	70
Total	2,537	1,885	1,508	905	590	366	333	93

RE = Recreational Equivalent; portion of recreational slot limit below the slot limit for commercial retention.

Green Sturgeon were ESA listed in 2006. As a result, WDFW developed a Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP), which describes that level of impact salmon fisheries may express on Green Sturgeon. The FMEP has not been accepted by NOAA fisheries at this time.

Considerations for Sport and Commercial fisheries in Grays Harbor MA 2.2 and Freshwater tributaries

Forecast for salmon returning to Grays Harbor during 2013-14 season:

2013 Forecast

	Natural origin	Hatchery
Chinook		
Chehalis	15,132	1,202
Humptulips	5,504	2,430
Coho		
Chehalis	168,993	51,525
Humptulips	12,915	29,796
Chum	30,716	3,110

Opportunities

- Abundant coho, both natural and hatchery origin.
 - Estimated mark rate for forecasted returning Grays Harbor coho is 21%.
- Abundant chum.
- Estimated mark rate for forecasted returning Grays Harbor Chinook is 7.3%.

Constraints and Concerns

- Fewer natural Chinook available compared to 2012.
- Natural-origin Humptulips coho spawner escapement has not met the goal in the past ten years.

Grays Harbor Wild Spawning Adult Coho Escapements 2007-2012

Humptulips and South Bay Tributaries								
Natural Spawning Adult Coho Escapements 2007 – 2012								
							Draft	
	Goal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Fishery Suggestion
Humptulips	6,894	343	192	1,293	5,558	2,651	2,097	no natural retention
Elk River	220	43	88	54	135	81	83	no natural retention
Johns River	743	581	1,184	728	1,791	1,076	1,108	no natural retention
Stafford Cr. to Alder Cr.	376	86	179	112	279	162	167	no natural retention
Total South Bay	1,339	710	1,451	894	2,196	1,319	1,358	no natural retention

Shaded Areas = made escapement that year

Escapement Goal met: 4/6 yrs = 0 retention, 5/6 yrs = 1 retention, 6/6 yrs = 2 retention;

All upper Chehalis River Natural Spawning Adult Coho stocks except for Upper Chehalis Mainstem have achieved goal during each of the past six years.

Lower Chehalis Natural Spawning Adult Coho Escapements 2007 – 2012								
						Draft	Draft	
	Goal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Fishery Suggestion
Hoquiam	1,788	710	459	2,723	3,656	3,254	3,350	no natural retention
Wishkah	2,788	542	577	2,829	3,798	3,453	3,555	no natural retention
Wynoochee	7,168	3,223	3,729	6,339	8,511	6,074	6,253	no natural retention
Satsop	8,628	5,143	5,852	10,252	13,764	11,963	12,315	no natural retention
Lower to Mid. Chehalis Tribs	3,204	4,114	5,506	8,814	11,832	8,039	8,276	2 natural

Shaded Areas = made escapement that year

Escapement Goal met: 4/6 yrs = 0 retention, 5/6 yrs = 1 retention, 6/6 yrs = 2 retention

Fishing Gear and Areas:

Recreational fishing opportunity will be considered and prioritized for fishery management in the marine area during August and early September. Unanticipated management issues identified in-season shall be resolved by WDFW staff working with the appropriate sport and commercial representatives. If Chinook impacts need to be minimized during coho management periods during 2A/D gillnet, certain areas may be closed and/or commercial fishers will utilize unstrung gillnets with a maximum 6-inch stretch mesh size and a maximum net depth of 55 meshes. Coho impacts may to be minimized during Chinook management periods during 2C gillnet. Development and use of selective harvest techniques will be encouraged as a tool to achieve conservation objectives and full utilization of hatchery production.